



# Rayleigh News

University of The Third Age

Newsletter No.17

June 2009

## **FROM THE CHAIR**

Dear Members,

I am so pleased to tell you all that at last we have a sister U3A in Rayleigh. Launched at the Rayleigh Grange Community Centre on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009. Sixty plus people came along to find out all that the U3A movement could bring to their retirement years.

Some ten people put their names forward to form a Steering Group and they are in the planning stages of putting a programme together of monthly meetings with speakers plus the formation of groups.

We wish them every success and look forward to sharing joint ventures in the future. Our first celebration will be a Joint Anniversary Evening with music to dance to and buffet supper at the Grange Community Centre on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2009. This will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary and Rayleigh Grange's sixth month Anniversary. Tickets will be on sale shortly.

If you have friends, relatives or neighbours who are interested in the U3A and would like to find out more then tell them to go along to the next meeting of Rayleigh Grange U3A that will be held on the first Wednesday in every month (except August and December) from 2pm until 4pm. Their next meeting will be on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June at The Grange Community Centre, Little Wheatleys.

As you know our U3A at Holy Trinity is having to restrict any intake of new people as we have maximum membership for the time being.

Enjoy the lovely month of June when the gardens become a vision of colour and keep your fingers crossed that the new roof on Wimbledon's Centre Court will bode well for our British tennis players later this month.

Sincerely,

*Maureen*

*Chair Rayleigh U3A*

## **Group Co-ordinators News**

A busy start to the month getting more new groups up and running for you. Plus we are trying to clear our waiting list on some of the popular groups by opening second groups where possible. Please don't forget we are always looking for new group leaders to come forward to help with these second groups and I am only too pleased to help anyone who would be interested in doing so.

**Walking Group II** - We held a meeting at Trinity Church Hall on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May which turned out to be a great success. To start this second group off, three members, Rita, Les Poole and Ian Haynes have volunteered to lead their first walk in June. The walk will be limited to those members who were able to attend this initial meeting and hopefully a decision will be made whether they will lead further walks in the future. If you are interested in occasionally leading a walk please contact me on 01268 786405.

**Aviation** – Phil has received a lot of interest and has 7 people joining this group. His initial meeting will be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May to discuss the future plans for this group. Please contact Phil on 01268 750324 for more information.

**Archeology** – Ian Haynes is holding his initial meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> May. Members are being asked to take along an old artefact they had found or possessed as a start to this meeting. If you would like to know more please contact Ian on 01268 779749.

**Caligraphy** - Irene Tyson has her initial meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> May. Please contact Irene if you would like to join or know more about this group on 01268 742942

**Visiting Essex Church Group V** – Maureen has her first outing in June. If you would like to know more please contact her on 01268 750967.

**Weekly Dining II** – An initial meeting was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and Marion and Laurie Wrentham have agreed to become the new group leaders. Their first lunch will be on the 16<sup>th</sup> June and future lunches will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. For more information please contact Marion or Laurie on 01702 555783.

**Tai Chi** – The “taster” session took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> May at Cully's Gym in Hockley and not only did we have a brilliant demonstration by the Tai Chi Society, but we were able to join in and learn some of the moves. They have kindly offered to repeat this for those members who were unable to attend on this occasion. I will keep you informed of the date. RRAVS have also agreed to fund the second session for us.

**Golf** - Kay has arranged a meeting at Dunton Golf Range on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June. If you would like to join her, please call for more information on 01268 780855.

There will be more information available on these groups on the Notice Boards at the June 1st meeting and of course in next month's Newsletter.

Sue Taylor  
Group Coordinator  
01268 786405

# **NEWS FROM OUR GROUP LEADERS**

## **Local History Group**

Maritime Maldon This tour starts at Fullbridge (that is where we meet) and follows the river along to the Hythe Quay. It then proceeds to the Extension on the Promenade. Historic boat building sites are pointed out as well as the stories associated with traditional craft, including Fishing Smacks and Thames Sailing Barges." If you are interested in booking this tour please go to our table at the U3A meeting

### **LOCAL HISTORY GROUP/ITINERARY FOR 2009**

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 25 <sup>th</sup> June 10.00am    | Maritime Maldon – Restricted to 20 - £2 per head. Pay at Meeting 5 <sup>th</sup> June latest                                   |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 10.30am    | Colchester Tour of 20 Guide £3 per head. Pay at U3A Meeting 3 <sup>rd</sup> July latest  |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> August 1.30p.m. | Ingatstone Hall any number £3.50 per head depending on how many public attending on the day whether we have guide or freeflow. |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Week in Sept.    | 2 Group members to suggest and organise trip   |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> October 10.30   | Meeting at Stratford House   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> November 10.30  | Perhaps meet up with the other history groups  |

NB Unfortunately we have to restrict to first 20 on list because guides restrict numbers.

When you have put your name on list it would be appreciated if you could pay as soon as possible. We usually have to pay a deposit in advance to secure the booking.

**Heather Flemmings - 01702 204943**

## **Reading Group 1**

As you may know I am the leader for the above reading group. We meet on the last Thursday of each month in Rayleigh Library at 2.00 pm. The Library actually gets our books for us so no cost to any of the members is involved. We all read the same book, from a very varied selection, and then discuss it and the issues that arise from it. I think over the past 18 months we have all been very surprised by each others reactions to the books & our meetings are always both interesting and fun!

Although it is not practical to allow the group to become too large again, I now find that I can welcome 2 or 3 new members so if you are interested please give me a ring on 01268 771263 or e-mail me at [joyce.green@tesco.net](mailto:joyce.green@tesco.net)

**Joyce Green – 01268 771263**

## **Tenpin Bowling Group**

Another excellent afternoon at CJs tenpin bowling centre in Hockley, our winners were Graham Godfrey and first time winners Faith Wood and Lilian Morris.

The next bowling will be on the 16th June

**Alan Hudson – 01702 202158**

## Gardening Group

### Malvern Flower Show 8/9<sup>th</sup> May

Forty nine gardening enthusiasts set off at 8.30am from Kirbys on a damp Friday morning for the first gardening group "holiday". First on the agenda was Waddesdon Manor, a late 19<sup>th</sup> century Rothschild's stately home now under the management of the National Trust. The journey took about two hours and we were welcomed by the first rays sunshine of the day, coffee was the first thought and then members visited the Aviary, the Wine Cellars, the Gardens or the Shops. Lunch was served at noon in the Manor restaurant and was washed down with some excellent Rothschild's wine. The highlight was the tour of the house; this was packed with treasures (such as a French writing desk which was purchased in 1890 for £45,000!) which Baron Ferdinand Rothschild had accumulated in order to impress his very wide range of guests which included Queen Victoria and many other heads of state.

Saturday morning started a little chilly with strong winds but no rain, we arrived at the show ground shortly after the doors opened but already there were large numbers inside the grounds. Five and a half hours had been allowed for of visit which seemed a long time but after spending an hour or more in the Floral Marquee and another hour in the "barns" which were full of garden implements, flowers shows, food, furniture, horticultural societies and much more one wondered if you would see all the show. Still the sight of David Clarke taking photographs reassured you that anything you missed would be in the winter slide show. Occasionally you would bump into some of our party and noticed that you were not the only one who was carrying large numbers of plants or garden implements. By 3 o'clock most of the show had been visited but where were those show gardens? -Never did find them- Just time for another coffee and then to find the coach, where was it parked?

## **GARDEN VISITS**

Garden visits are open to all members of the Rayleigh U3A

<b>June</b> – Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> Late Afternoon	Garden visit You need to book	Furzelea - Danbury	Entry £3.00 Refreshments available
<b>June</b> – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> 10am – 1pm	Garden visit You need to book	Glen Chantry Wickham Bishops	Entry £3.50 Tea & Biscuits inc
<b>August</b> –Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> 2pm	Garden visit You need to book	Thatched Cottage Billericay	Entry £4.00 Includes refreshments

A separate list giving full details of Garden Visits/Gardens Open is available at the U3A monthly meetings. Bookings should be made at the "Gardening Desk" at the monthly U3A meetings.

**Linda Clarke 01702 204559**  
Slide Shows/RHS London Shows

**Heather Brickwood 01268 743838**  
Garden Visits/Days out/Holidays

## Holiday Group

**There will be no meetings for the next 3 months but please watch for information, updates and ideas on the Noticeboard at monthly meetings and in the Newsletter.**

*Don't forget the 'Northern Lights' Presentation on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> June – 2 -4 p.m. at the Parish Centre, Cloister Room. We now have 26 interested in this trip in April 2010. If you would like to join us to hear and see more about this projected adventure do come along. Friends and family welcome.*

**Brian Kersey – 01268 743959**

## **Wine Appreciation**

For the May meeting we tried something a little different, we paired up two bottles of the same grape and members were asked to advise which they preferred, this was repeated four times. The interesting result was that on three occasions the cheaper wine was the preferred choice, the best example of this was the Rioja when the £10 bottle had the unanimous support of members over the £17 bottle. Our next meeting is on Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> June when as usual there will be four whites and four reds for members to sample.

If you are interested in joining we maybe able to squeeze you in, please contact  
**Harry Brickwood 01268-743838**

Just to remind members the next meetings are

23 June

14 July

No meeting in August

Meetings are at the Guides Hall, Hockley with a 7.30 start.

## **Theatre Group**

11 members saw the comedy Nobody's Perfect at the Palace on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May. The trip to the Globe Exhibition and Tour was booked for Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May for 19 members. Jean has booked Singing in the Rain at the Cliffs on 24<sup>th</sup> June for 12 members. On 2<sup>nd</sup> September we are hoping to see Evita at the Cliffs, please contact Jean if interested. The Lion King at the Lyceum is booked for 9<sup>th</sup> September with 16 members going.

We have 21 booked to see the Christmas Spectacular at Thursford in Norfolk on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November and then staying at the Oaklands Hotel, Thorpe St. Andrew, Norwich, returning to Rayleigh on the Friday. We are going with Kirby Coaches and if anyone going wishes to obtain Holiday Insurance please contact Kirby direct. Leader is Jean.

The Theatre Group Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May was cancelled as Stratford House was not available.

**NEXT THEATRE GROUP MEETING IS FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE AT STRATFORD HOUSE AT 10.30AM.**

**Helena Maxwell - 01268 772061**

**Jean Mackenzie - 01268 510570**

## **Digital Photography Group**

**Indoor meetings have been suspended for the next 3 months because our usual venue at Stratford House is subject to last minute cancellations due to indispositions connected with the Warden which creates problems with entry and security.**

I have provisionally booked dates from September which I hope will suit everyone – watch this space for further updates and details of outdoor activities.

Next Activity on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June:  
'Tropical Wings' Woodham Ferrers

This is a Butterfly Farm and Zoo on the old road just before it joins the new road and roundabout To South Woodham Ferrers. Meet in the Car Park 10.30 Please come and develop your skills (I will bring a couple of tripods)

If you would like a lift or would like to know more please contact:-  
**Brian Kersey 01268 743959**

**Please remember to look on the Notice Board in the Underspire Room for any further news/ photos and other group information.**

## **HEADLINES FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM**

### **Last Month's Monthly Meeting**

At our May meeting we were delighted to welcome Dennis Rensch who is a volunteer from Essex Air Ambulance. His talk was both very informative and entertaining. The facts and figures he gave on how the air ambulance operates were fascinating. He ended his talk by "quizzing" the audience on the facts and figures he had given us. The audience was divided into four groups and with a certain amount of light-hearted "cheating" and "cribbing" (for which he deducted points!) a winning team was announced.

A donation of £50 was given to the Air Ambulance from our U3A and a retiring bucket collection amounted to approximately £164. All the proceeds go to an extremely worthwhile cause.

One of the ways in which funds are raised for the Air Ambulance is by means of a monthly lottery. Dennis was unable to bring the relevant forms to our meeting but they have since been forwarded and are in time for our June meeting. The forms can be collected from the information desk if you would like to join the lottery and help to raise funds for this very worthwhile cause.

### **U3A - Nationally - "What's going on?"**

**U3A Summer Schools** - *For more information see Notice Board or contact Eileen Harrold, Secretary, on 01268 775911*

**For other U3A National and Regional news see the Notice Board**

*This month will see us putting our new Notice Board into use at the monthly meeting. Full details of anything going on nationally or regionally within the U3A will be posted on the Notice Board under the heading "U3A - National and Regional News". There is always something new going on.*

## **Some visits and events to look forward to**

### **SAILING BARGE TRIP**

*This will be the last communication before the trip on 10<sup>th</sup> June*

If you haven't arranged for a lift to Maldon please let me know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Those who can offer seats in their cars please meet at the Holy Trinity Car Park from 10.30 to do pick-ups.

If I don't hear from you I will assume that you have arranged a lift and will see you at Maldon on the Quay where we will allocate which barge you will be on.

Boarding time is from 11.45. Sailing time is 13.45. We expect to be back in Maldon by 16.00.

If you are bringing a picnic lunch to eat on board that will be fine with the Barge Caterers

### **BUT PLEASE WOULD YOU NOT BRING DRINKS.**

**There will be Tea, Coffee and a bar on board so please patronise it.**

### **Directions to Maldon (Hythe Quay) From Rayleigh**

**London Road –Carpenters Arms Roundabout, old A130 to second roundabout follow signs to Woodham Ferrers - at second roundabout turn left on to B1418 Woodham Ferrers, Bicknacre. Just after Bicknacre (garage on your left) turn right (Pub on your right) continue on this road until you meet the A414 at a roundabout. Carry straight on towards Maldon. At the next roundabout (Morrison's) turn left up the hill to the next roundabout, take second exit into Maldon, continue down the High St. with the Parish Church on your left, at the bottom of the High St. the road narrows and becomes Mill Road.**

**In a short distance you will see some big gates on your left which is the first entrance to the park. Parking here is short stay so continue on keeping the park on your left until you see a sign Long Stay Parking. This an entrance only, when you leave you will exit by a different gate and you have to turn left and follow signs to A414 Chelmsford which will eventually bring you back to the Morrison's roundabout.**

**Parking Charges: All Day £5**

**The Quay is about a 5 minute walk from here (You will see the masts of the barges from the path through the park, and is just below the white tower of St Mary's Church)**

There is another Car Park at the end of a short road opposite the Pie and Mash shop at the lower end of the High Street but it is small, but a little closer to the Quay.

**Last reminder-: Bring your Ticket! – and ENJOY!! Brian Kersey - 01268 743959**

**Step back in time – Kentwell 1530**

**Saturday, 27th June, 2009**

Tickets are still on sale for our visit to Kentwell Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> June. There are just a few tickets left for the visit. If you are unable to attend the meeting to buy a ticket and would like to go please telephone Janet Carlton – 01268 452791.

Full details are posted on the Notice Board in the Underspire Room and were given in the February newsletter but if you have any queries or would like more information please contact Janet Carlton – 01268 452791.

If you have already paid to visit Kentwell (you would have been given a receipt), an information sheet giving details of the journey and itinerary for the day will be available for you to collect at the monthly meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Your information slip will be forwarded to you if you are unable to attend. The tickets for entry to Kentwell Hall will be given out on the coach at Kentwell on the day

### **Rayleigh U3A - Autumn Visit**

Those of you who were at last month's meeting will know that our Autumn visit this year is on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. The visit will be to Apsley House, the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Wellington's residence. We shall also visit Wellington Arch and the National Army Museum. Apsley House is situated at the top end of The Mall. Our trip is being organised through City and Village Tours and final details are being discussed with them. Full details of the visit will be posted on the Notice Board. The cost will be £25 including coach, driver and guide's gratuity. Tickets will go on sale at our next meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June and as always will be on a first come, first served basis. If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to go please telephone Janet Carlton – 01268 452791.

### **Rayleigh U3A/Rayleigh Grange U3A - Joint Anniversary Celebration**

Arrangements are in hand for a joint celebration to be held at The Grange Community Centre, Little Wheatleys on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> October. The evening will celebrate our Rayleigh U3A second year anniversary and Rayleigh Grange U3A six month anniversary. Further details to be revealed shortly. Mark the date in your diary now – it will be a fun evening.

**Other visits and events are being considered for the future and you will be notified as soon as more details are known.**

<b>DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</b>
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**Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June** - "Step back in time" – Kentwell 1530  
Visit to Kentwell Hall, Long Melford, Suffolk  
Tickets on sale in the Underspire Room.

**Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> October** - Apsley House  
Tickets on sale in the Underspire Room

**Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> October** – Rayleigh U3A/Rayleigh Grange U3A Joint Anniversary  
Celebration

More details to follow.



**Next Month's Meeting - Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July**  
**2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.**

**Lizzey Sheridan - "The Special Olympics"**

**An account of her experiences representing  
Britain in the bi-annual World Games for  
transplant patients**

*Please send items for inclusion in  
the July newsletter to:-*

*Janet Carlton,  
35 Curlew Crescent,  
Basildon, SS16 5HR*

*Tel: 01268 452791  
janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk.  
To arrive no later than 15th June, 2009*

**NATIONAL OFFICE**

**19 East Street, Bromley, Kent BR1  
1QH**

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**Web site: [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)**

**Resource Centre: e-mail:**

**[resource.centre@u3a.org.uk](mailto:resource.centre@u3a.org.uk)**

## **RAYLEIGH U3A WEBSITE**

**[www.rayleighu3a.org.uk](http://www.rayleighu3a.org.uk)**

### **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

**Carpe diem - seize the day**

**Horance - Oden**

**Chairman:- Maureen Huntly - 01268 777398**

**E-mail - [Maureen@phuntly.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:Maureen@phuntly.freeserve.co.uk).**

**Membership Secretary:- Irene Carter - 01268 766149**

**E-mail - [efandicart@btinternet.com](mailto:efandicart@btinternet.com)**

**Group Co-ordinator:- Sue Taylor 01268 786405**

**E-mail - [susan.taylor106@tesco.net](mailto:susan.taylor106@tesco.net)**

**Newsletter editor:-Janet Carlton 01268 452791**

**E-mail - [janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:janetcarlton@blueyonder.co.uk)**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Telephone No:</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>How Often</b>
Acoustic Guitar	Vera Ward	01268 755040	House Meeting	Monthly – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thurs
Archeology	Ian Haynes	01268 779749	House Meeting	Monthly – 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed
Art Appreciation	Barbara Curry	01268 775460	House Meeting	Monthly - Last Thurs
Art – Water Colours	Sylvia Lester	01268 774201	House Meeting	Monthly – 1 <sup>st</sup> Mon
Art – Water Colours II	David Taylor	01268 777952	House Meeting	Weekly –Wednesday
Art – Oil Painting	David Taylor	01268 777952	House Meeting	Weekly –Wednesday
Aviation	Phil Gendall	01268 750324	House Meeting	Monthly - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed
Bird Watching	Laurie Denney	01702 615370	Contact Laurie	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> each month
Book Reading	Joyce Green	01268 771263	Rayleigh Library	Monthly - Last Thurs
Book Reading II	Doreen Blake	01268 774871	TBD	Monthly – 1st Thurs
Calligraphy	Irene Tyson	01268 742942	House Meeting	Monthly – 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed
Computing	Keith Dunt	01702 201747	Stratford House	Monthly – last Friday
Cross Stitch & Crochet	Jackie Lewis	01245 401123	Stratford House	Monthly – 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed
Digital Photography – Beginners or Advanced	Brian Kersey	01268 743959	Contact Brian	Monthly – Tuesday mid-day
Dining Group - Midweek	June Morris	01702 527506	Various venues	Monthly – 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues
Dining Group – Midweek II	Marion & Laurie Wretham	01702 555783	Various venues	Monthly – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues
Family History -Beginners	Terry Taylor	01268 786405	House Meeting	Monthly – 1 <sup>st</sup> Mon
Family History I	Sue Taylor	01268 786405	House Meeting	Monthly – 1 <sup>st</sup> Mon
Family History II	Val Taylor	01702 206416	House Meeting	Monthly – 2 or 3 Wed
Family History III	Barbara Dale	01268 772018	House Meeting	Monthly -
French	Terri Gouldsmith	01268 562803	TBD	TBD
Gardening	Heather Brickwood Linda Clarke	01268 743838 01702 204559	Contact Heather or Linda	Monthly – last Monday
Golf	Kay Nevin	01268 780855	Dunton Golf Course	TBD
History I – Local History	Heather Flemings David Kelsey-Fryer Connie Parker	01702 204943	TBD	TBD
History II – Life History	Marian Allen	01268 73339	Various	Monthly – last Wed
History III – Social/Economic History	David Carlton	01268 452791	TBD	TBD
Holiday Group	Brian Kersey	01268 743959	Contact Brian	Monthly - Monday
Latin	Dave Filby	01268 770023	TBD	TBD
Music Appreciation	Les Geales	01702 206966	Contact Les	Monthly – last Wed
Scrabble	Maureen Huntly	01268 777398	Stratford House	Monthly – last Mon
Scrapbooking	Janet Carlton	01268 452791	House Meeting	Monthly – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs
Serendipity “Experiences & New Discoveries in & Around London	Linda Clarke David Clarke	01702 204559	Various Outings	Monthly - varies
Singing for Health & Pleasure	Marjorie Sale	01702 346175	Stratford House	Tuesday (am)
Sunday Luncheon Club	Maureen Goss	01268 777681	Various venues	Monthly – Sunday
Sunday Luncheon Club II	Sue Barrows	01268776775	Various venues	Monthly – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday
Ten Pin Bowling	Alan Hudson Gill Hudson	01702 202158	CJ’s Bowling Alley	Monthly – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues
Theatre	Jean MacKenzie Helena Maxwell	01268 510570 01268 772061	Call Jean or Helena for details	Various usually on a Friday
Visiting Essex Churches I	Marian Allen	01268 743339	Contact Marian	Monthly – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mond
Visiting Essex Churches II	Audrey Morris	01268 771644	Contact Audrey	Monthly – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mond
Visiting Essex Churches III	Brenda Perrott	01268 779590	Contact Brenda	Monthly – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mond
Visiting Essex Churches IV	Liz Denney	01702 615370	Contact Liz	Monthly – 1st Mond
Walking	Roger Baker	01702 331166/ 07867 588879	Contact Roger	Monthly – 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed
Wine Appreciation	Harry Brickwood	01268 743838	Guides Hall, Bulwood, Approach, Hockley	Monthly – 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday evening
Yoga	Suzanne Middleton	01702 557389	Stratford House	Weekly - Thurs